AMENDED VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS

1. An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a pin retainer receivable in a non-rotatable position within the first passage; and

pin means insertable within the pin retainer and extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure, and in combination with the support structure, for bearing substantially all of the wear member-removal compressive forces during use of the wear member.

2. An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a pin retainer receivable in a non-rotatable position within the first passage, the pin retainer being threaded internally; and

pin means having threaded portions corresponding to the threaded portions of the pin retainer, wherein when the pin means is inserted into the pin retainer by the application of torque force, the pin means extends through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure, and in combination with the support structure, for bearing substantially all of the wear member-removal compressive forces during use of the wear member.

3. An assembly for operatively attaching a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member and support structure, respectively, have a first and second passage, which are co-extensive and form a common passage when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, the assembly comprising:

a pin retainer receivable in the first passage in the wear member, said pin retainer having an outer surface, an inner end and an outer end; and

pin means insertable within the pin retainer and extending through the first passage and into the second passage for operatively locking the wear member to the support structure, and in combination with the support structure, for bearing substantially all of the wear member-removal compressive forces during use of the wear member.

6. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of flat walls on each of the pin retainer and the first passage, which cooperate when the pin retainer is inserted into the first passage to retain the pin retainer in the non-rotational position.

9. A method for locking a wear member to a support structure, wherein the wear member has a first passage and the support structure has a second passage, which are co-extensive when the wear member is operatively coupled to the support structure, comprising the steps of:

inserting a pin retainer into the first passage in the wear member whereby the pin retainer is held in a non-rotatable position;

coupling the wear member to the support structure so that the first and second passages are co-extensive; and

inserting a pin means into the pin retainer by the application of torque force, wherein the pin means extends through the first passage and into the second passage to operatively lock the wear member to the support structure, the pin means, in combination with the support structure, bearing substantially all of the wear member-removal compressive forces during use of the wear member.

13. (New) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the central longitudinal axis of the first passage is forward of the central longitudinal axis of the second passage to allow the pin means to tightly lock the wear member to the support structure.

14. (New) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the central longitudinal axis of the first passage is forward of the central longitudinal axis of the second passage to allow the pin means to tightly lock the wear member to the support structure.

15. (New) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the central longitudinal axis of the first passage is forward of the central longitudinal axis of the second passage to allow the pin means to tightly lock the wear member to the support structure.